

Department of the Navy, DoD

§ 757.2

that have initially been processed and negotiated by a non-appropriated fund activity, its insurer, or TPA, until the activity or its insurer has clearly stated in writing that it does not intend to pay the claim and has elected to defend the claim in court.

[72 FR 53426, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 756.9 Claims by employees.

(a) *Property.* Claims by employees of NAFIs for loss, damage, or destruction of personal property incident to their employment shall be processed and adjudicated in accordance with subparts A or B of part 751 of this chapter, as appropriate. The claims will then be forwarded to the appropriate NAFI for payment from non-appropriated funds.

(b) *Personal injury or death.* (1) Personal injury or death of citizens or permanent residents of the United States employed anywhere, or foreign nationals employed within the United States. Compensation is provided by the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. 901-950) for employees of NAFIs who have suffered injury or death arising out of, and in the course of, their employment (5 U.S.C. 8171). That Act is the exclusive basis for Government liability for such injuries or deaths that are covered (5 U.S.C. 8173). A claim should first be made under that Act if there is a substantial possibility the injury or death is covered under the Act's provisions.

(2) Personal injury or death of foreign nationals employed outside of the continental United States. Employees who are not citizens or permanent residents, and who are employed outside the continental United States, may be protected by private insurance of the NAFI or by other arrangements. When a non-appropriated fund activity has elected not to obtain insurance coverage or to make other arrangements, compensation is separately provided by Federal statute, military regulations, and agreements with foreign countries. See 5 U.S.C. 8172, DoD 1401.1-M, Personnel Policy Manual for Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities and BUPERINST 5300.10A, NAF Personnel Manual.

[72 FR 53426, Sept. 19, 2007]

PART 757—AFFIRMATIVE CLAIMS REGULATIONS

Subpart A—Property Damage Claims

Sec.

757.1 Scope of subpart A.

757.2 Statutory authority.

757.3 Regulatory authority.

757.4 Claims that may be collected.

757.5 Assertion of claims and collection procedures.

757.6 Waiver, compromise, and referral of claims.

757.7-757.10 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Medical Care Recovery Act (MCRA) Claims and Claims Asserted Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1095

757.11 Scope of Subpart B.

757.12 Statutory authorities.

757.13 Responsibility for MCRA actions.

757.14 Claims asserted.

757.15 Claims not asserted.

757.16 Claims asserted only with OJAG approval.

757.17 Statute of limitations.

757.18 Asserting the claim.

757.19 Waiver and compromise.

757.20 Receipt and release.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 10 U.S.C. 939, 5013, and 5148; E.O. 11476, 3 CFR, 1969 Comp., p. 132; 32 CFR 700.206 and 700.1202.

SOURCE: 57 FR 5072, Feb. 12, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Property Damage Claims

§ 757.1 Scope of subpart A.

Subpart A describes how to assert, administer, and collect claims for damage to or loss or destruction of Government property through negligence or wrongful acts.

§ 757.2 Statutory authority.

(a) *General.* All affirmative claims for damage to or loss of Government property in favor of the United States are processed in accordance with the Federal Collections Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3711), as amended by the Debt Collection Act of 1982, PL 97-365, 96 Stat. 1749 (25 October 1982), PL 101-552, 104 Stat. 2736 (15 November 1990) and the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, PL 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321, 1358 (26 April 1996). Department of Defense Directive designees, the authority granted to the

§ 757.3

Secretary of Defense under the Federal Claims Collection Act.

(b) *Statute of limitations.* Subject to specific provisions in other statutes, there is a general 3-year statute of limitations on affirmative Government tort claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2415(b).

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§ 757.3 Regulatory authority.

The regulations published in 31 CFR Chapter IX control the collection and settlement of affirmative claims. This section supplements the material contained in those regulations. Where this section conflicts with the materials and procedure published in 31 CFR Chapter IX, the latter controls.

[57 FR 5072, Feb. 12, 1992, as amended at 72 FR 53427, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 757.4 Claims that may be collected.

(a) *Against responsible third parties for damage to Government property, or the property of non-appropriated fund activities.* It should be noted, however, that as a general rule, the Government does not seek payment from service members and Government employees for damages caused by their simple negligence while acting within the scope of their employment. Exceptions to this general policy will be made when the incident involves aggravating circumstances.

(b) *For money paid or reimbursed by the government for damage to a rental car in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel regulations (volume 1, paragraph U 3415-C and volume 2, paragraph C 2101-2).* Collection action shall be taken against third parties liable in tort. Collection action shall not be taken against Government personnel who rented the vehicle.

(c) *Other claims.* Any other claim for money or property in favor of the United States cognizable under the Federal Claims Collections Act not specifically listed above.

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§ 757.5 Assertion of claims and collection procedures.

(a) *General.* The controlling procedures for administrative collection of

32 CFR Ch. VI (7-1-08 Edition)

claims are established in 31 CFR part 901.

(b) *Officials authorized to pursue claims.* The Judge Advocate General; the Deputy Judge Advocate General; any Assistant Judge Advocate General; the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation) are authorized to pursue and collect all affirmative claims in favor of the United States, except in countries where another service has single service responsibility in accordance with DoD Directive 5515.8.

(c) *Dollar limitations.* All of the officers listed in § 757.5(b) are authorized to compromise and terminate collection action on affirmative claims of \$100,000.00 or less.

(d) *Determining liability.* Liability must be determined in accordance with the law of the place in which the damage occurred, including the applicable traffic laws, elements of tort, and possible defenses.

(e) *Assertion of a claim.* (1) Assertion of the claim is accomplished by mailing to the tortfeasor a "Notice of Claim." The notice is to be mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, and should include the following information:

(i) Reference to the statutory right to collect;

(ii) A demand for payment or restoration;

(iii) A description of damage and estimate of repair;

(iv) A description of the incident, including date and place; and

(v) The name, phone number, and office address of the claims personnel to contact.

(2) See also 31 CFR part 901.

(f) *Full payment.* When a responsible party or insurer tenders full payment or a compromise settlement on a claim, the payment should be in the form of a check or money order made payable to "United States Treasury." The check or money order shall then be forwarded to the disbursing officer serving the collecting activity for deposit in accordance with the provisions of the Navy Comptroller Manual. For collections for damages to real property, the collection is credited to the account available for the repair or replacement of the real property at the